

Ag Video Conference Notes
September 17, 2008
9 a.m.

Present: Jeremy Klatt, Dale Adams, Cindy Martens, Ken Hessenius, Paul Petitti, Dan Olson, Ted Petersen, Randy Clark, Reza Khosravi, Bob Palla, Sara Smith, Karen Grimes, Josh Sobaski and Dennis Ostwinkle.

Open Lots If an NPDES permit is needed they must have their complete application in by 12/31/08. This would include the NMP, NPDES application, soil sampling, fees, and schedule of compliance. It is not feasible to have a construction permit done by that deadline. Compliance should be expected by the end of 2009. We were reminded that pre 1985 confinements that were previously not required to have an MMP will now be regulated if they are with an open lot and their size requires an NPDES permit.

-Compliance Schedule for my combined CAFO and Compliance Steps for Combined CAFOs is form 542-0190

-These items should be mailed to AFO in DM. They will be entered in the database and fees taken and then given to the appropriate field office for review of the compliance schedule. It will be up to the field office to coordinate what is acceptable.

NMP vs. MMP The open lot animals and the confined animals may be combined into the NMP or they can choose to keep the confined animals in their MMP and just have the open lot animals in the NMP. Fees include the NPDES application fee and permitting fee. MMP fees stay the same.

Distances btw. Facilities How far apart do open lots have to be to be considered one facility for NPDES permitting? There is no guidance in legislation, so it is being proposed that 1,250 feet be used. (This distance should be used at the current time.) Feed stock won't count in the distance; however manure storage areas do count.

No Discharge It was reported that the cattlemen's view is to take the safe approach and assume that all the >1,000 head facilities discharge. At the time of this call they were waiting on the Federal Rules to be finalized. Randy stated that there is an exception in Subrule 567 IAC 65.102(2) stating that a CAFO is not required to obtain an NPDES permit if the operation does not discharge into any waters of the U.S.

Animal Counting We were reminded to use head count for combo operations and the Federal NPDES rules and use animal units for Iowa open lot rules. A mature cow is one that has calved. Bred heifers are not considered mature. Calf huts need to be counted either as open lot or confined depending upon animal access to the outside.

Submitted by Cindy Martens